



NEWS

State of Delaware
Department of Finance
Division of Revenue
www.revenue.delaware.gov

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ONLINE LIST OF DELINQUENT DELAWARE TAXPAYERS PAYING OFF

Statewide – January 10, 2008 – Delaware Division of Revenue Director Patrick Carter announced today that the posting of the fourth list of the top 100 delinquent individual and business taxpayers is at www.revenue.delaware.gov/ddt.shtml.

Since the Delaware Delinquent Taxpayers website went live in February 2007, the state has collected more than \$1.24 million in back taxes from taxpayers whose names were posted or were advised that they qualified to have their name posted. With the posting of this round of Delaware's delinquent taxpayers, Carter says he expects Delaware to see even more money in the weeks to come.

The Delaware Delinquent Taxpayers website posts for public view the names of people and businesses who owe unpaid tax bills to the state. By legislative order, larger balances were targeted first for publication. Each quarter the next 100 consecutive business tax and 100 consecutive personal tax unresolved balances over \$1,000 are posted to the site.

"This site is extremely successful," Carter says. "People generally don't want their individual or business names posted online for not paying taxes. Delaware's collecting outstanding debt and we're also saving money by not having to pay collection agency costs that we normally pay to collect that debt. It's a win-win."

Rep. Deborah Hudson, who proposed the program and sponsored the legislation that established the posting requirements for Delaware's delinquent taxpayers, agrees that the Delaware Delinquent Taxpayers site is a success.

"When you consider the benefits this program has had and the money it's collected – and will continue to collect – for the people of Delaware, you begin to appreciate how well this program has worked," says Hudson. "There were minimal costs to initiate this program and it takes even less money to keep it going. I expect the site will be in place for a very long time and resolve a lot of overdue accounts."

Since its inception in February 2007, the Delinquent Taxpayers page – www.revenue.delaware.gov/ddt.shtml – has encouraged almost 200 Delaware taxpayers to enter into payment agreements or resolve their unpaid tax bills. Tomorrow's lists will name the individuals and businesses that, combined, owe nearly \$9 million to the state.

To meet the criteria for posting to the Delaware Delinquent Taxpayers site, individuals and businesses must have already received a judgment for unpaid taxes. They are then notified by mail that their name may be posted online and given 60 days to respond. The names of those who enter into a payment agreement with the Division of Revenue or pay their balance in full are either not published or will be removed from the Delinquent Taxpayers list, depending on when the agreement takes place. Taxpayers who have filed for bankruptcy protection or have incurred a liability that is being appealed are excluded from the published list until their case has been resolved.

"A large percentage of outstanding accounts are resolved just so people can avoid having their names or business names posted online," Carter says. "Another group of people resolve their accounts immediately after seeing their names online. Ultimately, this site provides the motivation some people need to finally resolve their tax debt."

Delaware is one of over 20 states and the District of Columbia to publish delinquent taxpayers online.

Media Contact:

Angela Moffett
Delaware Division of Revenue
angela.moffett@state.de.us
Phone: (302) 577-8522

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